

Message Text

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44

ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-15 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 CG-00

DLOS-06 MBFR-04 SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /165 W

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P R 031225Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4016

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USEC BRUSSELS

USOECN PARIS 532

USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 384

CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

NISRA KEFLAVIK

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 1165

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR UK IC

SUBJECT: FISHERIES DISPUTE: ICELAND ACCEPTS TRUCE PROPOSAL

REF: REYKJAVIK 1163

1. AT PRESS CONFERENCE HELD OCT 2, PRIMIN JOHANNESSEN RELEASED
FOLLOWING TEXT OF LETTER HE HAD SENT TO PRIMIN HEATH ACCEPTING A
BRITISH PROPOSAL FOR TRUCE: " I WISH TO EXPRESS MY SATISFACTION
AT THE DECISION OF THE BRITISH GOVT TO WITHDRAW THE ROYAL NAVY
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AND THE TUGBOATS FROM THE ZONE OF ICELANDIC FISHERIES JURISDICTION

ON OCT 3RD. ACCORDINGLY, RUPTURE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WILL NOT TAKE PLACE WHILE THAT SITUATION REMAINS UNALTERED.

"AS REGARDS MEASURES ON THE PART OF ICELANDIC AUTHORITIES AGAINST BRITISH TRAWLERS FISHING, OR WHICH HAVE FISHED, WITHIN THE ICELANDIC FISHERIES JURISDICTION, I WISH TO REFER TO THE STATEMENT I MADE IN MY REPLY OF SEPT 28TH AS FOLLOWS: 'I MUST POINT OUT THAT ENFORCEMENT OF ICELANDIC LAW WITHIN THE ICELANDIC FISHERIES JURISDICTION CANNOT BE DISCONTINUED' AND THIS I MUST EMPHASIZE.

"YOUR LETTER STATES: 'AN IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE IN MAKING THE WITHDRAWAL IS TO ESTABLISH CONDITIONS WHICH WILL ENABLE YOU TO COME TO LONDON FOR TALKS WITH ME'. IN THIS I CONCUR AND IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO ACCEPT YOUR INVITATION TO DISCUSS WITH YOU THIS WHOLE ISSUE AND WAYS TO RESUME FURTHER TALKS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. FOR MY PART, 15 OCTOBER WOULD BE A CONVENIENT DATE, ASSUMING THAT THE CONDITIONS CREATED BY THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE ROYAL NAVY AND THE TUGBOATS WILL THEN PREVAIL."

2. IN THE COURSE OF QUESTION PERIOD FOLLOWING RELEASE, JOHANNESSON SAID PROPOSED TALKS WITH HEATH WILL NOT BE NEGOTIATIONS ON ISSUE BUT WILL BE EXPLORATORY IN NATURE TO SEE IF NEGOTIATIONS CAN BE CONDUCTED ON SAME BASIS AS BEFORE. SAID NOTHING SPECIFIC HAS BEEN DECIDED WITHIN GOI ON WHETHER FORMER GOI NEGOTIATING POSITIONS ARE STILL VALID. SAID THERE HAD BEEN TWO CABINET MEETINGS TO MAKE IMPORTANT DECISION TO ACCEPT BRITISH PROPOSAL AND THAT ALTHING FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HAD BEEN UNANIMOUS IN RECOMMENDING ACCEPTANCE.

3. JOHANNESSON SAID RELATIONS WILL NOT BE BROKEN WHILE BRITISH NAVAL VESSELS REMAIN OUTSIDE 50-MILE LIMIT. SHOULD THEY RETURN, HOWEVER, BREAK WOULD BE AUTOMATIC. SAID ICELANDIC AMB WILL SOON RETURN TO LONDON.

4. WHILE CLAIMING THAT NO SPECIAL ORDERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN OR WILL BE GIVEN TO ICELANDIC COAST GUARD ON ENFORCEMENT, PRIMIN EXPRESSED HOPE THAT BRITISH TRAWLERS WILL STAY OUTSIDE 50-MILE LIMIT. IF INSIDE, HE THEN HOPED THEY WOULD BE QUICK ENOUGH TO HAUL IN THEIR FISHING GEAR AND DEPART UPON APPROACH OF COAST GUARD
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VESSEL.

5. IN CONCLUSION, PRIMIN SAID HE WAS NOW MORE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT FINDING SOLUTION TO FISHERIES DISPUTE THAN HE HAD BEEN FOR SOME TIME. MARTIN

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